

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An authorization system and associated method for selectively authorizing a host system to use one or more items of protected information associated with the host system. The authorization system includes a portable authorization device that is removably couplable to the host system. The portable authorization device is capable of receiving and storing multiple items of authorization information associated with a plurality of respective items of protected information from one or more information authorities. Preferably, the portable authorization device is capable of communicating with multiple types of information authorities. The portable authorization device selectively authorizes the host system to use the one or more respective items of protected information based upon the respective authorization information stored therein.